

Serial No. 10/716694
60,130-1779
03MRA0263

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the following numbered paragraphs with the following rewritten paragraphs:

- [18] ~~The piston rod 22 includes an attachment fixture (illustrated schematically at 24).~~
- [19] The rod 20 projects out through an a rod end plug 24 of the piston cylinder 18, which defines an aperture 25 which allow linear passage of the piston rod 20 along gas spring axis X. An opposite end of the piston cylinder 18 is closed by an end plug 26. The distal end of the rod 20 and the closed end plug 26 of the piston cylinder 18 includes a respective connector 28, 30 which is typically a ball socket or other link for attachment of the gas spring 16. It should be understood that various attachment fixtures such as fixed threaded connections and movable connections such as ball joints will benefit from the present invention.